Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 06137 01 OF 02 251457Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 MCT-01
HA-05 EB-08 /114 W
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R 251438Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5993
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USNATO
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CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
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COMSIXTHFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 06137

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PINT, CY, EG
SUBJ: PRESS ON CYPRUS EVENTS

REF: CAIRO 6038

SUMMARY: PRESS UNCOVERS PLOT TO CONCEAL TRUTH BEHIND
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 06137 01 OF 02 251457Z

CYPRUS EVENTS, MARSHALS EVIDENCE OF CYPRIOT, PLO, SYRIAN
COLLUSION. BUTROS GHALI CLAIMS THERE WAS AGREEMENT ALLOW
EGYPTIANS TO INTERVENE AND SAYS SEVERANCE OF RELATIONS
TO BE FOLLOWED BY "OTHER MEASURES." ONE REPORT SAYS
"SOME ARAB COUNTRIES" PROPOSING TO RECOGNIZE DENKTASH
STATE. AHRAM REPORTS CARAMANLIS SEEKING POUR OIL ON
WATERS. COMMENTARY ATTACKS CYPRIOTS AND PLO, WHO ARE

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

WARNED OF EGYPT'S GRIEF AND WRATH. END SUMMARY

1. PLOT. FEBRUARY 25 EKHBAR EL-YOM BANNERED NEWS OF PLOT TO CONCEAL FACTS OF SIBAI MURDER AND LARNACA AIRPORT INCIDENTS. ACCORDING PAPER, GOE INFORMED CYPRIOTS OF SCHEME TO ASSASSINATE TWO KILLERS TO PREVENT THEIR REVEALING FACTS BEHIND SIBAI KILLING. PLAN SET FOR EXECUTION FOLLOWING CYPRIOT FAILURE TO "SMUGGLE" KILLERS INTO HANDS OF PLO. CYPRIOTS FORCED TO ARREST THEM "AFTER EGYPTIAN SHOCK UNIT STORMED PLANE, FREED HOSTAGES AND ARRESTED KILLERS." PAPER'S LONDON CORRESPONDENT UNCOVERED INFORMATION OF COLLUSION BETWEEN "CERTAIN PERSONALITY" IN CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT AND PLO TO PREVENT EXTRADITION OF KILLERS TO EGYPTIANS SO THAT GOE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO "OBTAIN" A CONFESSION. AHBAR AL-YOM FURTHER "LEARNED" THAT SYRIAN FORCES IN BEIRUT "UNDER COVER OF BEING MEMBERS OF ARAB DETERRENT FORCES" COOPERATED WITH CYPRIOTS IN TRANSPORTING ARMED PLO FORCE TO LARNACA AIRPORT. ABU IYAD SAID TO HAVE CONFIRMED STORY IN STATEMENT TO DAMASCUS RADIO.

2. COMMANDOS TELL ALL. AHRAM AND GUMHURRIYYA QUOTED WOUNDED COMMANDO COLONEL THAT HE HAD INTERCEPTED RADIO CONVERSATION WITH "PALESTINIAN ASSASSINS" WHICH INDICATED THAT PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS HAS AGREED TO ALLOW TERRORISTS TO ESCAPE WITH CYPRIOT PASSPORTS.
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COMMANDO MOVED OUT SWIFTLY, "MAKING ITS WAY TO HIGHJACKED PLANE AND ACCOMPLISHING ITS MISSION IN THREE MINUTES." NO ONE WOULD HAVE BEEN INJURED WERE IT NOT FOR "TREACHER-OUS CYPRIOT ATTCK." AHRAM ALSO QUOTED SIBAI PRIVATE SECRETARY HUSSEIN RIZK, WHO HAD BEEN HOSTAGE ON PLANE, THAT KYPRIANOU IMPLICATED IN CRIME.

3. GOE PRESSES CYPRUS. MINSTATE BUTROS GHALI MEANWHILE TOLD BBC THAT EGYPTIANS HAD REACHED AGREEMENT WITH CYPRIOTS ON EGYPTIAN INTERVENTION TO FREE HOSTAGE AND HELP CYPRUS ARREST TERRORISTS. RELATIONS WITH CYPRUS COULD ONLY IMPROVE, GHALI SAID, IF TERRORISTS TURNED OVER TO EGYPT. FAILING THAT, EGYPT WOULD TAKE OTHER MEASURES, WHICH HE UNABLE TO REVEAL. AKHBAR EL-YOM REPORTED THAT "SOME ARAB COUNTRIES" HAVE PROPOSED RECOGNITION OF TURKISH-CYPRIOT "REPUBLIC" UNDER RAUF DENKTASH FOLLOWING EGYPT'S WITHDRAWAL OF RECOGNITION FROM KYPRIANOU. PAPER EXPECTED THAT EGYPTIAN POSITION WOULD CREATE CRISIS WHICH MIGHT COMPEL KYRPIANOU TO RESIGN.

4. GREEK MESSAGE. AHRAM FEATURED REPORT THAT GREEK PRESIDENT CARAMANLIS HAS SENT MESSAGE TO SADAT STRESSING

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

IMPORTANCE OF CONSOLIDATING GRECO-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS AND REPAIRING EGYPTIAN RELATIONS WITH CYPRUS.

5. COMMENTARY. COLUMNS AND EDITORIALS ON LARNACA INCIDENTS DEALT SEVERELY WITH BOTH CYPRIOTS AND PLO. AKHBAR CHAIRMAN AMIN PERCEIVED SOVIET INSISTENCE BEHIND DECISION TO HOLD AAPSO MEETING IN CYPRUS, WHERE SECURITY LAX AND KYPRIANOU HAD BEEN UNABLE FORCE RELEASE OF HIS OWN KIDNAPPED SON. AHRAM COLUMN BY AZHAR INTERNATIONAL LAW PROFESSOR ACCUSED KY PIANOU OF COMPLICITY. HAVING REALIZED EGYPTIAN COMMANDOS WOULD NOT ALLOW TERRORISTS TO SLIP OUT OF EGYPTIAN GRIP, KYPRIANOU SUDDENLY REMEMBERED MANTLE OF CYPRIOT SOVEREIGNTY, "BUT IT WAS STAINED WITH BLOOD OF EGYPTIAN MARTYRS AND THUS EXPOSED THE REAL MURDERER,
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PAGE 04 CAIRO 06137 01 OF 02 251457Z

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 06137 02 OF 02 251500Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 CAIRO 06137

HIMSELF."

6. AHBAR COLUMN WARNED PLO THAT CRIME IN CYPRUS HAD GRIEVED EVERY EGYPTIAN AND AROUSED THEIR WRATH AND RESENTMENT. COLUMN CALLED FOR CONFRONTATION WITH ARAB GOVERNMENTS WHO STOOP TO TERRORISM "AND PALESTINE LIBERA-TION ORGANIZATION IS PARTY WHICH SHOULD BE CONFRONTED
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 06137 02 OF 02 251500Z

FIRST." AHRAM ASKED ARAFAT WHY HE DOES NOT CALL FOR DELIVERY OF TERRORISTS INTO EGYPTIAN CUSTODY. "THUS FAR EGYPT HAS NOT TRANSLATED THE FEELINGS OF ITS GRIEVED AND BEREAVED PEOPLE INTO COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST THE PLO IN SPITE OF ITS ERRONEOUSLY PLANNED AND EXECUTED POLICIES AGAINST EGYPT AND ITS PEOPLE." EILTS

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TAGS: PDIP, PINT, SOPN, CY, EG
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